

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00  
INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07  
DODE-00 ERDA-07 SS-15 SP-02 COME-00 PM-05 /104 W  
-----069750 172217Z /73

R 171645Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6575  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 13368

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG IT

SUBJ: STATUS OF ITALIAN DECISIONS ON FAST BREEDER REACTOR

REF: ROME 12306

1. THE PRESS (SERGIO GARIBBA AND SERGIO VACCA OF LA REPUBBLICA) REPORTED ON AUGUST 2 THAT THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ITALIAN FIRM, NIRA (NUCLEARE ITALIANA REATTORI AVANZATI) AND THE FRENCH FIRM NOVATOME, SIGNED ON JUNE 23, 1977(SEE REFTEL) PROVIDED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUPER-PHENIX FAST BREEDER REACTOR IN ITALY IN THE PERIOD 1983-1984 WITH THE FRENCH PAYING 20 PERCENT OF THE COST. LA REPUBBLICA REPORTED THAT AGIP OF THE ENI GROUP (STATE-CONTROLLED HYDROCARBONS COMPANY) ALREADY WAS COMMITTED TO BUILD A FUEL FABRICATION PLANT AT A COST OF 70 BILLION LIRE TO MAKE THE PLUTONIUM TO FEED THE SUPER-PHENIX REACTOR.

2. LA REPUBBLICA CARRIED TWO ARTICLES ON AUGUST 10 THAT WE BELIEVE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION MORE ACCURATELY. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RENZO TASELLI, PRESIDENT OF NIRA, AMN(ANSALDO MECCANICO)  
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NUCLEARE) AND SAIGE (INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING FIRM) TASELLI SAID THAT AN ENT# HASD# BEEN SIGNED AT THE END OF JUNE COVERING

THE SECOND FAST BREEDER REACTOR WHICH WOULD BE BUILT IN FRANCE AND FINANCED BY THE FRENCH. THE AGREEMENT FORESEES THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING ADDITIONAL REACTORS IN EITHER FRANCE OR ITALY. IN LATTER CASE, BOTH FRENCH AND ITALIAN FIRMS WOULDHAVE AN INTEREST.

ACCORDING TO TASELLI, A DECISION ON WHETHER TO BUILD A FAST BREEDER IN ITALY WOULD NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL ABOUT 1985, AFTER THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS NOW INCLUDED IN THE ITALIAN ENERGY PLAN ARE CONSTRUCTED. HOWEVER, IN THE SECOND LA REPUBBLICA ARTICLE, FELICE IPPOLITO EX-PRESIDENT OF CNEN (NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY COUNCIL) SAID THAT IF THE SUPER-PHENIX PROVES OUT, AS SEEMS LIKELY BASED ON DEVELOPMENT TO DATE, THE GOI MIGHT DECIDE BY 1982 OR 1983 TO BUILD A FAST BREEDER IN ITALY.

3. /COMMENT/. EMBASSY BELIEVES LATER ARTICLES BY LA REPUBBLICA MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT REAL SITUATION. EMBASSY UNABLE DURING AUGUST VACATION PERIOD TO CHECK WITH AUTHORITIES STATEMENTS IN EARLIER ARTICLE (I.E. THAT FRENCH COMMITTED TO FINANCE UP TO 20 PERCENT OF COST OF FAST BREEDER BUILT IN ITALY, AND THAT AGIP IS COMMITTED TO BUILD FUEL FABRICATION PLANT FOR FAST BREEDER REACTOR). AT SAME TIME, WE SEE NO REASON WHY GOI DECISION TO BUILD FAST BREEDER REACTOR WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF CURRENTLY PLANNED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.HOLMES

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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